

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 TRSY-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 144

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USCINCUSNAVEUR

NAVDET SOUDA BAY CRETE

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

COMSIXTHFLT

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

CTF SIX THREE

NAF SIGONELLA IT

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ATHENS 6409

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, IS, SOPN

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON MISSING AMMUNITION AT SOUDA BAY

REF: ATHENS 6392

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORTS IN THE GREEK PRESS (REFTEL)  
ABOUT THE MISSING AMMUNITION AT SOUDA, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF  
MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS TO JOURNALISTS THE EVENING OF AUGUST  
22 (BASED ON PRESS REPORTS):

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2. MR. AVEROFF STATED THAT THE REMOVAL OF THE AMMUNITION

TOOK PLACE "BETWEEN JULY 15 AND 25, 1974, AT A TIME OF POLITICAL TURMOIL AND GREAT SLACKNESS IN (GOVERNMENTAL) ADMINISTRATION AND WAS DUE TO THE ACTIONS OF IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONS. THEREFORE, THE TIME WHEN THIS TOOK PLACE," HE CONTINUED, "AS WELL AS THE QUANTITY INVOLVED CHARACTERIZE ITS NATURE WHICH DOES NOT ALLOW THE ATTRIBUTION, IN GOOD FAITH, OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PRESENT GREEK GOVERNMENT OR TO HIGHER GREEK AUTHORITIES."

3. "FURTHERMORE, THE CHECK WHICH REVEALED THE SHORTAGE WAS NOT MADE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO--AS WAS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS--BUT ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO. SINCE THEN, THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE COLLABORATED WITH THE GREEK AUTHORITIES IN A SINCERE EFFORT TO SETTLE THE MATTER AMICABLY AND WITHOUT ANY INTENTION OF EXPLOITING IT." HE CONCLUDED.  
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